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Book-Deconcini

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., has called for the resignation of CIA Director William Casey for his alleged involvement in helping President Reagan's 1980 campaign obtain briefing materials prepared for President Carter.

"I have consistently doubted the integrity of Bill Casey," DeConcini, an old critic of Casey, said at a news conference Friday.

James Baker, White House chief of staff, said last week that, to the best of his recollection, the Carter materials were given to him by Casey and turned over to the Reagan debate preparation team headed by David Gergen, now the White House communications director.

Casey, who served as Reagan's campaign manager, said he does not recall having seen the Carter staff documents that wound up in the files of Reagan campaign aides.

DeConcini said he doubted Reagan was involved in getting the papers but said the election committee may have been.

The White House this week released a stack of Carter documents that two Reagan officials said they found in their files. Reagan asked the Justice Department to investigate the matter.

"I think the president wants to get to the bottom of it," DeConcini said. "It wouldn't be in his best interest to hide it. But I also believe he should appoint a special prosecutor so it would be out of his hands."

DeConcini said he has called for Casey's resignation in the past because of his involvement with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

• He also said he disagreed with a finding of the Senate Intelligence Committee exonerating Casey for owning stock in international corporations while holding the post of CIA director.

"I think we need someone beyond reproach to head what is the third most important position in government and I think we can do better and the president can do better," DeConcini said.